
CROOK COUNTY FSA NEWS

JANUARY 2007



TOWER OUTLOOK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CROOK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
P.O. BOX 1070, 117 S. 21st ST.
SUNDANCE, WYOMING, 82729

OFFICE STAFF:

MIKE IDLER - COUNTY EXEC. DIRECTOR

DANICE CONZELMAN - PROGRAM TECH.

SUSAN RASMUSSEN - PROGRAM TECH.

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 – 4:30 (Mon. - Fri.)

PHONE: (307) 283-2870 (Ext. 2) FAX: 283-2170

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

MERVIN PETERSON

CASEY MCDONALD

DANNY WHITE

ROXIE DACAR

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Mervin Peterson and Casey McDonald. Mervin was re-elected to serve as the representative for community #3 for the next three years. Casey was elected in this special election for community #1 to serve his area farmers and ranchers for year 2007. We appreciate all of the voters for taking time to complete the election ballot. The committee held their organization meeting on January 17th. For 2007, Mervin Peterson will serve as the committee chairman, Casey McDonald will serve as the Vice-Chairman and Danny White will serve as the regular member.

DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

Producers have until June 1, 2007 to enroll in the 2007 DCP program. Payments under DCP are determined on the acreage base of the farm's program crops and are paid whether or not you plant the respective crop. Advance payments equal twenty-two percent of the farm's total entitlement and may be earned upon enrollment in the program. Applications filed after June 1st (Late filed) will be accepted through September 30, 2007, if accompanied by a \$100.00 late fee.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NAP coverage applies to all crops that are not insurable with crop insurance. **The deadline to purchase NAP on 2007 spring seeded crops is April 1, 2007.** Cost is \$100.00 per crop and the

policy pays for losses in excess of 50% of the crops specific APH yield and at 55% of the market price. 2006 Crop Production evidence must be submitted for NAP Actual Production History purposes by July 1, 2007. Failure to report this data will result in a lower payment rate on future NAP crop losses.

WOOL/MOHAIR LOANS AND LDP'S

A 9-month marketing assistance loan or an LDP payment is available for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. Producers are reminded that page 1 of form CCC-633 EZ must be signed before losing beneficial interest in the commodity. If you sell your product at shearing time, or if you store your product at a wool warehouse facility, you must sign page 1 before shearing or before the wool is sold or, if you lose beneficial interest when delivered to the warehouse you must sign page 1 prior to this event. Call for any specific situations you may have. Deadline to file for 2006 wool/mohair products is January 31, 2007. Complete your page 1 for 2007 wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts now before it is too late!

SPOUSAL SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

A husband and wife may sign on behalf of the other for most farm programs in which either has an interest. Written notification must be submitted to FSA if the right to sign on their behalf is to be denied by either spouse. Certain restrictions apply.

PAYMENTS REPORTED TO IRS

By law, FSA must report all program payments, earned by producers to the Internal Revenue Service. Producers who received program payments in 2006 should receive a notice (CCC-1099-G) near the end of January.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT ACT

Foreign investors who own or have a 5% interest in farm or ranch land, or who gross more than \$1,000 from any plot of land are required to report their holdings. This report is to be filed with the local FSA office within 90 days after acquiring such interest. Failure to report timely could result in costly penalties.

SODBUSTER/SWAMPBUSTER

Producers are required to farm their highly erodible land according to a conservation plan developed with NRCS. You should familiarize yourself with this plan if you are unsure of its requirements. Failure to farm according to your farm's conservation plan can, and will most likely jeopardize all USDA payments and could result in assessed penalties.

If you lease or buy land you need to contact our office to ensure that the proper determinations have been made before the crop is planted and that you, as a farming individual or entity, are in compliance. If you break new land you must contact our office prior to this activity.

PAYMENT LIMITATION AND ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) PROVISIONS

Program participants are reminded of the requirement to timely and accurately file payment limitation forms if you have a change in your farming operation. The status date is April 1st of the current fiscal year. Forms submitted for payment limitation purposes are subject to spot check by FSA. Payment limitations for FSA programs are as follows:

Program Limit per "Person"	
DCP – Direct Payment	\$40,000/yr.
DCP- Counter Cyclical	\$65,000/yr.
LDP/Market Gains	\$75,000/yr.
CRP Annual Rental	\$50,000/yr.
NAP	\$100,000/yr.
EQIP	\$450,000/life of farm bill

Spouses may be considered as separate "persons" for payment limitation purposes if

certain requirements are met. Entities are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of it's members. The members must designate which permitted entities are to receive USDA benefits.

No program benefits subject to limitation may be provided until all required forms for the specific situation are provided and the necessary payment limitation and payment eligibility determinations are made. Payment limitation and payment eligibility determinations may be initiated by the County Committee or by the producer. A determination of not "actively engaged in farming" results in the producer being ineligible for any payment or benefit requiring a determination of "actively engaged in farming".

The average adjusted gross income limitation is \$2.5 million. Non compliance with the adjusted gross income provisions, either by exceeding the \$2.5 million limitation or by failure to submit the applicable certification statement, will result in the determination of ineligibility for all program benefits subject to the adjusted gross income provisions; program benefits shall be reduced in an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest held by an ineligible individual or entity in any entity, general partnership, or joint operation that receives benefits subject to the average adjusted gross income limitation. Certifications are required for all individual and entities, including embedded entities to the fifth level to determine compliance.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

A power of attorney allows someone else to sign FSA program documents on your behalf. Producers wishing to appoint another person to be their "attorney-in-fact" to act on their behalf for FSA and CCC programs must complete form FSA-211. FSA does not accept power of attorney forms other than the FSA-211 except in unique cases when a producer could not complete the FSA-211, such as incompetence or incapacitation. Acceptance of power of attorney forms other than FSA-211 in these cases requires review and approval by the regional attorney. A separate FSA-211 shall be completed for each grantor and each attorney-in-fact. This form only needs to be completed once and can be revoked at any time by the grantor. Some programs or activities associated with FSA operations do not provide for an appointed attorney-in-fact.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairments so that all eligible producers will have full access to all programs administered by FSA. If special accommodations are required, please contact Mike Idler, CED at (307) 283-2870.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify our office if their account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases their bank. Payments will be delayed if we do not have current information.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the change to our office so your farm records can be updated. For farm ownership changes a recorded deed or recorded land contract must be provided. Landowners must furnish tax ID numbers. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in farm programs.

LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

APPLICATION FOR FSA LOANS

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their

applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA farm loan manager or officer for more details and assistance in applying.

CONTINUOUS CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 31...2006 Wool/Mohair/Unshorn Pelts Deadline

February 19...Office Closed, Presidents Day

March 31...Deadline for 2006 Small Grain LDP's

April 1...Deadline to purchase NAP on all 2007 Spring Seeded NAP Crops.

June 1...DCP signup Deadline

**P.O. BOX 1070
SUNDANCE, WY. 82729**

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY
PERMIT NO. 17**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and

Have a Nice Day, /s/ Mike Idler, CED

For more information on any Farm Service Agency program, visit or call our office, or visit the FSA Homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov